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Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled:

"Advancement of women:

"(a) Advancement of women;

"(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 8th to 12th, 19th, 23rd, 31st, 38th, 39th, 43rd, 45th and 46th meetings, from 13 to 15 and 21, 23 and 30 October and 6, 11, 20, 21 and 24 November 2008. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/63/SR.8-12, 19, 23, 31, 38, 39, 43, 45 and 46).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fortieth and forty-first sessions;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (A/63/214 and Corr.1);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/63/38).

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(c) Report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls (A/63/215);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on eliminating rape and other forms of sexual violence in all their manifestations, including in conflict and related situations (A/63/216 and Corr.1);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/63/217);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula (A/63/222);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (A/63/364);

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/63/205).

4. At the 8th meeting, on 13 October, the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women made introductory statements and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Algeria, the Sudan, Chile, the Syrian Arab Republic, Colombia and France, and by the observer for Palestine; a statement was also made by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see A/C.3/63/SR.8).

5. At the 10th meeting, on 14 October, the Executive Coordinator for global health of the United Nations Population Fund made a statement (see A/C.3/63/SR.10).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.12 and Rev.1

6. At the 19th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women" (A/C.3/63/L.12). Subsequently, Bhutan, Brazil, the Congo, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Mozambique, Nigeria, Panama, Slovakia, Switzerland and the United Republic of Tanzania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006 and 62/133 of 18 December 2007, and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

"*Welcoming* Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security,

"*Reaffirming* the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

"*Reaffirming also* the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', and the declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

"*Reaffirming further* the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and at the 2005 World Summit, and noting the attention paid to the elimination of all forms of violence against indigenous women in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007,

"*Recalling* the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide,

"*Recognizing* that violence against women is rooted in historically unequal power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

"*Deeply concerned* about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world,

"*Expressing its appreciation* for the high number of activities undertaken by States to eliminate all forms of violence against women, such as by

enacting or amending legislation relating to acts of violence against women and adopting comprehensive national action plans to combat such violence,

"*Recognizing* the important role of civil society in the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

"1. *Stresses* that 'violence against women' means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;

"2. *Recognizes* that violence against women and girls persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development, peace and the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals;

"3. *Expresses concern* about the continued level of impunity for acts of violence against women worldwide;

"4. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and the report of the Secretary-General on the elimination of rape and other forms of sexual violence in all their manifestations, including in conflict and related situations;

"5. *Welcomes also* the efforts and important contributions at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including the work done by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, in particular the report submitted by the Special Rapporteur to the Human Rights Council in 2008;

"6. *Welcomes further* the launch of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women, 'UNiTE to End Violence against Women', and stresses the need to ensure that concrete follow-up activities will be undertaken by the United Nations system to intensify action to end violence against women, with close consultation on existing system-wide activities on violence against women, and requests the Secretary-General to identify, announce and report on the expected results of his campaign;

"7. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women and girls, whether these acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within affective relationships, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

"8. *Stresses* that it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

"9. *Stresses also* that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish the

perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"10. *Urges* States to end impunity for violence against women, by prosecuting and punishing all perpetrators, by ensuring that women have equal protection of the law and equal access to justice and by holding up to public scrutiny and eliminating those attitudes that foster, justify or tolerate violence;

"11. *Stresses* the need for the exclusion of crimes involving sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes;

"12. *Stresses also* that States should take measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women, protecting and assisting the victims and investigating and punishing violence against women, receive proper training to sensitize them to the needs of women, in particular women who have been subject to violence, so that women are not re-victimized when seeking justice and redress;

"13. *Stresses further* that States should take all possible measures to empower women and inform them of their rights in seeking redress through mechanisms of justice, inform everyone of women's rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights, and engage men and boys as well as the family as agents of change in preventing and condemning violence against women;

"14. *Urges* States, in their continuing efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, to adopt a comprehensive and sustained approach aimed at ending impunity and a culture of tolerance towards violence against women, by using best practices in the field of legislation, prevention, law enforcement and victim protection, assistance and rehabilitation, such as:

"(a) Establishing, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, a comprehensive integrated national plan dedicated to combating violence against women in all it aspects, which includes data collection and analysis, prevention and protection measures and national information campaigns using resources to eliminate in the media gender stereotypes that lead to violence against women and girls;

"(b) Reviewing and, where appropriate, revising, amending or abolishing all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and ensuring that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

"(c) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women, including the reasons for low reporting, and, where necessary, reinforcing criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women;

"(d) Ensuring that there is sufficient knowledge, awareness and coordination in the legal system and, to that end, appointing a focal point in the legal system for cases of violence against women;

"(e) Ensuring the systematic collection and analysis of data to monitor all forms of violence against women, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of victims, including with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors;

"(f) Establishing appropriate national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating implementation of measures taken to eliminate violence against women and girls, including through the use of national indicators;

"(g) Providing adequate financial support for the implementation of national action plans to end violence against women and other relevant activities;

"(h) Allocating adequate resources to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality and to prevent and redress all forms and manifestations of violence against women;

"(i) Treating all forms of violence against women and girls as a criminal offence, punishable by law, and ensuring penal, civil, labour and administrative sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress the wrongs caused to women who are subjected to violence and imposing penalties commensurate with the severity of the crime;

"(j) Ensuring that perpetrators may be prosecuted by the public prosecutor independently of the victim's consent;

"(k) Ensuring that effective legal assistance is available to all female victims of violence so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues related to family law, and also ensuring that victims have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered;

"(l) Ensuring that all relevant officials coordinate effectively to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish all forms of violence against women, and provide protection and support to victims;

"(m) Developing or improving and disseminating specialized training programmes, including checklists, risk assessment tools and good practice guidelines on how to assist victims and how to deal with cases of violence against women for police officers, the judiciary, health workers, law enforcement personnel and other relevant public authorities;

"(n) Strengthening national health and social infrastructure to reinforce measures to promote women's equal access to public health and address the health consequences of violence against women, including by providing support to victims;

"(o) Establishing or supporting integrated centres in which shelter, legal, health, psychological, counselling and other services are provided to victims of all forms of violence against women in order to make remedies better

accessible and to facilitate the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims, and ensuring that victims have access to such centres;

"(p) Ensuring adequate and comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence into society;

"(q) Ensuring that prisons and probation services provide appropriate rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, as a preventive tool to avoid recidivism;

"(r) Supporting activities by civil society to end violence against women;

"15. *Stresses* the important role of the International Criminal Court and the ad hoc international criminal tribunals in ending impunity through ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of violence against women, and urges States to ratify or accede to the Rome Statute, which entered into force on 1 July 2002;

"16. *Welcomes* the steps taken by several United Nations bodies to discuss, within their respective mandates, the question of violence of women in all its forms and manifestations, and encourages all relevant bodies to continue to address this issue in their future efforts and work programmes;

"17. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, and taking into account, national priorities, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices;

"18. *Reiterates* its request to the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to consider ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls;

"19. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work, inter alia through the Task Force on Violence against Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality;

"20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his annual report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session:

"(a) Information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the present resolution;

"(b) Information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement General Assembly resolutions 61/143 and 62/133;

"21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-third session with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolution 61/143 and resolution 62/133, including on the progress made on enhancing the effectiveness, as a United Nations system-wide mechanism, of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

"22. *Decides* to continue the consideration of this question at its sixty-fourth session under the item on advancement of women."

7. At its 38th meeting, on 6 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/63/L.12/Rev.1), submitted by Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mozambique, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

8. At the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands orally corrected footnote 8 and operative paragraph 12, and revised operative paragraph 18 by deleting the words "International Criminal Court and the" before the words "ad hoc international tribunals" and inserting the words "as well as the contribution the International Criminal Court can make" before the words "and urges States".

9. Subsequently, Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Grenada, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Swaziland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Ukraine and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.12/Rev.1 as orally revised and corrected (see para. 27, draft resolution I).

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Costa Rica, Liechtenstein, Israel, Japan, Brazil, Slovenia, Mexico, Colombia, New Zealand, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Sweden, as well as the observer for the Holy See (see A/C.3/63/SR.38).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.13 and Rev.1

12. At the 23rd meeting, on 23 October, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Paraguay, Peru and the Philippines, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Trafficking in women and girls" (A/C.3/63/L.13), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* all international conventions that deal specifically with the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as previous resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions on the issue,

"*Reaffirming* the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

"*Reaffirming also* the commitment made by world leaders at the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims,

"*Recalling* the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, as well as the information that deals with trafficking in women and girls contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women,

"*Taking note* of the Vienna Forum against Trafficking in Persons in the framework of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, held from 13 to 15 February 2008, and of the thematic debate on the issue of trafficking in persons in the framework of the General Assembly on 3 June 2008,

"*Welcomes* the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and

children, and her task, inter alia, of identifying gender- and age-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the issue of trafficking in persons,

"*Acknowledging* the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

"*Bearing in mind* that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons, to rescue victims as well as provide for their protection and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

"*Seriously concerned* that an increasing number of women and girls from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition are being trafficked to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

"*Recognizing* that many of the existing efforts against trafficking in persons lack the gender- and age-sensitivity needed to address effectively the situation of women and girls who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, as well as for forced labour or services,

"*Recognizing also* the need to address the impact of globalization on the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

"*Recognizing further* the challenges to combating trafficking in women and girls owing to the lack of adequate legislation and implementation of existing legislation, the lack of availability of reliable sex-disaggregated data and statistics, and the lack of resources,

"*Concerned* about the use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of exploitation of the prostitution of others, for trafficking in women as brides, for sex tourism exploiting women and children and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children,

"*Concerned also* about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhuman conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international standards,

"*Recognizing* that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of their gender, age, ethnicity, culture and religion, as well as their origins, and that these forms of discrimination themselves may fuel trafficking in persons,

"*Gravely concerned* that some of the demand for prostitution and forced labour is met by trafficking in persons, exploiting the vulnerability of women and girls in particular,

"*Acknowledging* that women and girl victims of trafficking, on account of their gender, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information or awareness and recognition of their human rights and by the stigmatization often associated with trafficking, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

"*Recognizing* the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

"*Recognizing also* that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially women and children, demand the strong political commitment, shared responsibility and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

"1. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to enhance their efforts and cooperation, including by sharing their knowledge, technical expertise and best practices as widely as possible;

"2. *Calls upon* Governments to eliminate the demand that fosters the trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation, forced labour or other services, and all other forms of exploitation, including by, inter alia, publicizing the laws, regulations and penalties relating to trafficking as a serious crime, and enhancing the accountability of potential buyers and users of the services of trafficked women and girls;

"3. *Also calls upon* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the factors that increase vulnerability to being trafficked, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as other factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage and forced labour, in order to prevent and eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

"4. *Urges* Governments to develop, enforce and strengthen effective gender- and age-sensitive measures to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, to rehabilitate and reintegrate victims of trafficking as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

"5. *Also urges* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources to strengthen preventive action, in particular education for women and men, as

well as for boys and girls, on gender equality, self-respect and mutual respect, and campaigns, carried out in collaboration with civil society, to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels;

"6. *Further urges* Governments to develop educational and training programmes and policies and consider enacting legislation and other appropriate measures aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

"7. *Also urges* Governments to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement relevant United Nations legal instruments, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1930 (Convention No. 29), the Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation, 1958 (Convention No. 111) and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182), of the International Labour Organization;

"8. *Encourages* Member States to enhance cooperation, including by entering into bilateral, subregional, regional and international agreements, as well as to undertake initiatives, including regional initiatives, to, inter alia, enhance information sharing, data collection and other technical capacities, and combating corruption and laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercialized sexual exploitation, and to ensure that such agreements and initiatives are particularly sensitive to the problem of trafficking as it affects women and girls;

"9. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation and sex tourism, by penalizing the offenders and intermediaries involved, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

"10. *Urges* Governments to take all appropriate measures to ensure that victims of trafficking are not penalized for being trafficked or for their illegal entry or residence resulting from being trafficked, and that they do not suffer from revictimization brought about by arbitrary or long detention, forced expulsion, a ban on return to or work in the country where the abuse occurred, or other aggravating actions taken by government authorities;

"11. *Also invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in violence against women, in particular trafficking;

"12. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide comprehensive programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance, including in a language that they can understand, and health care, including for HIV/AIDS, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

"13. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to undertake or strengthen campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration, as well as information on the risks of irregular migration and the ways and means used by traffickers so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

"14. *Also encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement gender- and age-sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

"15. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials in the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, and in this regard calls upon Governments to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, especially by law enforcers, immigration officers, consular officials, social workers and other first-response officials, is conducted with full respect for the human rights of those victims, and with gender- and age-sensitivity, and observes the principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination;

"16. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities, without fear, and being available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to gender- and age-sensitive protection and social, medical, financial and legal assistance, as appropriate, including the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered;

"17. *Also invites* Governments to encourage media providers, including Internet service providers, to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children, in particular girls, which could foster trafficking;

"18. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism and telecommunications industries, including mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking, the rights of trafficked persons and the services available to victims of trafficking;

"19. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

"20. *Invites* Governments, United Nations bodies, agencies and special mechanisms, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

"21. *Also invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, when necessary, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals and other informational materials and provide training for law enforcement, judicial and other relevant officers, and medical and support personnel, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

"22. *Encourages* Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations are provided training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate or exploit trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and to raise the awareness of such personnel of the potential risks to victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, of being trafficked;

"23. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenants on Human Rights to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

"24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report that identifies successful interventions and strategies, as well as the gaps, in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of trafficking in persons, and provides recommendations on the strengthening of gender- and age-sensitive approaches in the various aspects of addressing trafficking in persons."

13. At its 45th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/63/L.13/Rev.1), submitted by Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon,

Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, Angola, Australia, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cape Verde, Chad, the Congo, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, the Gambia, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Mali, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. Statements were made by the representatives of Mexico and Ecuador (see A/C.3/63/SR.45).

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.13/Rev.1 (see para. 27, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.14 and Rev.1

16. At the 19th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women" (A/C.3/63/L.14), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* all of its previous resolutions on the situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in particular resolutions 55/219 of 23 December 2000, 56/125 of 19 December 2001, 57/175 of 18 December 2002, 58/244 of 23 December 2003, 59/260 of 23 December 2004 and 60/229 of 23 December 2005,

"*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/37 of 27 July 2007, in which the Council reaffirmed the specific mandate of the Institute to conduct research and training for gender equality and the empowerment of women as a central focal point for research and training on gender issues within the United Nations system,

"*Taking into account* Commission on the Status of Women resolution 52/3 of 7 March 2008, entitled 'Strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women',

"*Welcoming* the contributions of the Institute to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

"*Taking note with appreciation* of the progress report on the Institute by its Director with respect to the implementation of the programme of work for

the period from 15 May to 30 September 2008, which measures progress through the utilization of indicators of achievement as established in the workplan for 2008,

"*Welcoming* the approval by the Executive Board of the Institute of the revised workplan for 2008 and its endorsement of the operational budget for 2008,

"*Acknowledging* the contributions of the Institute in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the areas of security, international migration, in particular remittances and development, and governance and political participation,

"*Recognizing* the contribution of the Institute to the ongoing efforts in gender mainstreaming through its research and training outputs involving national gender machineries, academic institutes, regional intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of seeking medium-term sustainable financial resources for the Institute,

"*Welcoming* the activities undertaken by the Director of the Institute to actively promote a fund-raising strategy for the Institute,

"*Expressing its satisfaction* with the progress of the Institute in the area of resource mobilization, which has enabled the Institute to fully reimburse the amount committed by the Secretary-General on an exceptional basis from the United Nations regular budget, and recognizing the improved financial standing of the Institute,

"*Calling* for the diversification of funding resources and, in this regard, invites Member States to continue to provide assistance and support to the Institute through voluntary contributions and substantive involvement in its projects and activities,

"*Recognizing* that the implementation of the programme of work and strategic plan of the Institute will contribute to a comprehensive discussion on international migration and development from a gender perspective,

"1. *Requests* the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in accordance with its mandate, to coordinate further its activities and to develop its programme of work in collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and calls upon those entities to continue their collaborative efforts;

"2. *Also requests* the Institute, in accordance with its mandate, to collaborate with the United Nations system, national machinery, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in promoting international cooperation to foster women's empowerment and gender equality, including through, inter alia, the promotion of better access to education for

women and girls and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in all policies and programmes;

"3. *Further requests* the Institute, in accordance with its mandate and in close coordination with the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant United Nations programmes and funds, to actively participate in and contribute to discussions on issues related to international migration and development;

"4. *Invites* the Institute to continue, in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to promote and undertake research and training programmes on gender mainstreaming, in the context of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the commitments made at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

"5. *Requests* the Institute, within its mandate, to continue to assist countries in promoting and supporting the political participation and economic and social advancement of women through training programmes;

"6. *Stresses* the critical importance of voluntary financial contributions by Member States to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to enable it to carry out its mandate;

"7. *Invites* Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

"8. *Looks forward* to the enhanced implementation of the strategic plan of the Institute under the leadership of the new Director, to be appointed shortly by the Secretary-General;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

17. At its 43rd meeting, on 20 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/63/L.14/Rev.1), sponsored by Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Belarus, Israel, Italy and Spain. Subsequently, Austria and Mexico joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

18. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.14/Rev.1 (see para. 27, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.15 and Rev.1

19. At the 19th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Senegal, on behalf of Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, the Sudan,

Swaziland, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula" (A/C.3/63/L.15). Subsequently, Benin, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Lesotho, Monaco, Panama, the Republic of Moldova and Sri Lanka joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 62/138 of 18 December 2007 on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula,

"*Reaffirming* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', and the declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

"*Reaffirming also* the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and at the 2005 World Summit,

"*Reaffirming further* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and urging States that have not done so to consider, as a matter of priority, signing, ratifying or acceding to these Conventions and the Optional Protocols thereto,

"*Stressing* the interlinkages between poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health services, early childbearing, early marriage of the girl child, violence against young women and girls and gender discrimination as root causes of obstetric fistula, and that poverty remains the main social risk factor,

"*Recognizing* that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty,

"*Recognizing also* that early pregnancy and early childbearing entail complications during pregnancy and delivery and a much higher risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, and deeply concerned that early childbearing and limited access to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, including in the area of emergency obstetric care, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and other maternal morbidities as well as maternal mortality,

"*Recognizing further* the serious immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and the negative impact on psychological, social and economic development, that violence against the girl child and adolescent girls represents for individuals, families, communities and States,

"*Deeply concerned* about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access by girls to education, nutrition and physical and mental health and in enjoyment by girls of fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence compared with boys and their often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices,

"*Welcoming* the contribution by Member States, the international community and civil society to the global Campaign to End Fistula, bearing in mind that a people-centred approach to social and economic development is fundamental for protecting and empowering individuals and communities,

"1. *Recognizes* the interlinkages between poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health services, early childbearing, early marriage of the girl child and gender discrimination as root causes of obstetric fistula, that poverty remains the main social risk factor, that the eradication of poverty is critical to meeting the needs and protecting and promoting the rights of women and girls and that continued urgent national and international action is required to eliminate it;

"2. *Stresses* the need to address the social issues that contribute to the problem of obstetric fistula, such as early marriage of the girl child, early pregnancy, lack of access to sexual and reproductive health, lack of or inadequate education of women and girls, poverty and low status of women and girls;

"3. *Also stresses* that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls, that they must exercise due diligence in order to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"4. *Calls upon* States to take all necessary measures to ensure the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and develop sustainable health systems and social services, with a view to ensuring access to such systems and services without discrimination, while paying special attention to adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation, family planning information, increasing knowledge and awareness and securing appropriate prenatal and post-natal care for the prevention of obstetric fistula;

"5. *Also calls upon* States to ensure that women and girls have equal access to free and compulsory primary education of good quality and that they complete their education at that level, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand girls' and women's education at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order to, inter alia, achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication;

"6. *Urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the

minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

"7. *Calls upon* the international community to support the activities of the United Nations Population Fund and other partners in the global Campaign to End Fistula, including the World Health Organization, in establishing and financing regional fistula treatment and training centres by identifying and supporting health facilities that have the potential to serve as centres for treatment, training and convalescent care;

"8. *Calls upon* States and/or the relevant funds and programmes, organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector:

"(a) To redouble their efforts to meet the internationally agreed goal of improving maternal health by increasing access to skilled attendance at birth and emergency obstetric care, and appropriate prenatal and post-natal care;

"(b) To develop, implement and support national and international prevention, care and treatment and reintegration and support strategies, as appropriate, to address effectively the condition of obstetric fistula and to develop further a multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated approach in order to bring about lasting solutions and put an end to obstetric fistula, maternal mortality and related morbidities, including through ensuring access to affordable, comprehensive, quality maternal health-care services, including skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care;

"(c) To strengthen the capacity of health systems to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat those cases that do occur by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care, to young women and girls, including those living in poverty and in underserved rural areas where obstetric fistula is most common;

"(d) To strengthen research, monitoring and evaluation systems, including community-based notification of obstetric fistula cases and maternal and newborn deaths, to guide the implementation of maternal health programmes;

"(e) To provide essential health services, equipment and supplies and skills training and income-generating projects to women and girls so that they can break out of a cycle of poverty;

"(f) To mobilize funding to provide free or subsidized fistula repairs, including through encouraging more networking among providers and the sharing of new treatment techniques and protocols;

"(g) To provide health education, rehabilitation and reintegration counselling, including medical counselling, as key components of post-operative care;

"(h) To bring obstetric fistula to the attention of policymakers and communities, thereby reducing the stigma and discrimination associated with

it and helping women and girls suffering from obstetric fistula so that they can overcome abandonment and social exclusion together with the psychosocial implications thereof, inter alia, through the support of social reintegration projects;

"(i) To educate individual women and men, girls and boys, communities, policymakers and health professionals about how obstetric fistula can be prevented and treated and increase awareness of the needs of pregnant women and girls, including their right to the highest attainable standard of health, through working with community and religious leaders, traditional birth attendants, media, radio stations, influential public figures and policymakers, support the training of doctors, midwives, nurses and other health workers in lifesaving obstetric care, and include training on fistula repair, treatment and care as a standard element of health professionals' training curricula;

"(j) To develop means of transportation and financing that enable women and girls to access obstetric care and treatment, and provide incentives and other means to secure the presence in rural areas of qualified health professionals who are able to perform interventions to prevent obstetric fistula;

"9. *Encourages* communication and networking among existing fistula centres to facilitate training, research, advocacy and fund-raising and the development and application of relevant standards, including *Obstetric Fistula: Guiding Principles for Clinical Management and Programme Development*, published by the World Health Organization, which provides background information along with principles for developing fistula prevention and treatment strategies and programmes;

"10. *Urges* the international community to address the shortages of doctors, midwives, nurses and other health workers trained in lifesaving obstetric care, and of space and supplies, which limit the capacity of most of the fistula centres;

"11. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reaches young women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas;

"12. *Invites* Member States to contribute to efforts to end obstetric fistula, including, in particular, the United Nations Population Fund global Campaign to End Fistula, with the goal of eliminating obstetric fistula by 2015, in line with the targets of the millennium development goal of improving maternal health;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled 'Advancement of women'."

20. At its 31st meeting, on 30 October, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/63/L.15/Rev.1) submitted by Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso,

Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, and Saint Lucia withdrew as a sponsor.

21. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.15/Rev.1 (see para. 27, draft resolution IV).

22. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Saint Lucia and Albania, as well as the observer for the Holy See; after the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Chile (see A/C.3/63/SR.31).

23. At the 39th meeting, on 11 November, the Chairman made a statement (see A/C.3/63/SR.39).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.73

24. At its 46th meeting, on 24 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/63/L.73), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

25. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.73 (see para. 27, draft resolution V).

26. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Iran (Islamic Republic of) (see A/C.3/63/SR.46).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

27. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006 and 62/133 of 18 December 2007, and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[1] and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Reaffirming also the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[2] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[3] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4] and the declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[5]

Reaffirming further the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[6] and at the 2005 World Summit, and noting the attention paid to the elimination of all forms of violence against indigenous women in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007,

Recalling the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[7] as well as the recognition

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[2] See resolution 48/104.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

[6] See resolution 55/2.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and welcoming the adoption of Council resolution 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security,

Deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world,

Recognizing that violence against women is rooted in historically unequal power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

Recognizing also that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing further that the empowerment of women, by ensuring their full representation and full and equal participation at all levels of decision-making, is important in eliminating violence against women and girls,

Acknowledging the need to address violence against women holistically, including through the recognition of linkages between violence against women and other issues such as HIV/AIDS, poverty eradication, food security, peace and security, humanitarian assistance, health and crime prevention,

Expressing its appreciation for the high number of activities undertaken by States to eliminate all forms of violence against women, such as by enacting or amending legislation relating to acts of violence against women and adopting comprehensive national action plans to combat such violence,

Recognizing the important role of civil society, in particular women's organizations, in the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

1. *Stresses* that "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;

2. *Recognizes* that violence against women and girls persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development, peace and the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Expresses concern* about the continuing level of impunity for acts of violence against women worldwide;

4. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women[8] and takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on eliminating rape and other forms of sexual violence in all their manifestations, including in conflict and related situations;[9]

5. *Welcomes also* the efforts and important contributions at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, in particular the second thematic report on violence against women, its causes and consequences[10] submitted by the Special Rapporteur to the Human Rights Council in 2008;

6. *Recognizes* the important role of the family in preventing and combating violence against women and girls and the need to support its capacity to prevent and combat violence against women;

7. *Welcomes* the launch of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women, "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", supported, inter alia, by the advocacy campaign of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, "Say NO to violence against women" and the United Nations inter-agency initiative "Stop Rape Now: United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict", stresses the need to ensure that concrete follow-up activities will be undertaken by the United Nations system to intensify action to end violence against women, in close consultation with existing system-wide activities on violence against women, and requests the Secretary-General to identify, announce and report on the basis of the expected results of his campaign;

8. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women and girls, whether these acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

9. *Stresses* that it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

10. *Stresses also* that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

11. *Urges* States to end impunity for violence against women, by investigating, prosecuting with due process, and punishing all perpetrators, by ensuring that women have equal protection of the law and equal access to justice and by holding up to public scrutiny and eliminating those attitudes that foster, justify or tolerate all forms of violence against women and girls;

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[8] A/63/214 and Corr.1.

[9] A/63/216.

[10] A/HRC/7/6.

12. *Reaffirms* that the persistence of armed conflicts in various parts of the world is a major impediment to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and, bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality affecting women and men in nearly every region, calls upon all States and the international community to place particular focus on and give priority attention and increased assistance to the plight and suffering of women and girls living in such situations and to ensure that where violence is committed against them, all perpetrators of such violence are duly investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, while stressing the need to respect international humanitarian law and human rights law;

13. *Stresses* the need for the exclusion of killing and maiming of women and girls, as prohibited under international law, and sexual violence crimes from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes;

14. *Stresses also* that States should take measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women, protecting and assisting the victims, and investigating and punishing violence against women, receive proper training to sensitize them to the different and specific needs of women, in particular women who have been subject to violence, so that women are not re-victimized when seeking justice and redress;

15. *Stresses further* that States should take all possible measures to empower women and inform them of their rights in seeking redress through mechanisms of justice, inform everyone of women's rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights, and engage men and boys as well as families as agents of change in preventing and condemning violence against women;

16. *Urges* States to continue to develop their national strategy and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including through achieving gender equality and empowerment of women, and by using best practices to end impunity and a culture of tolerance towards violence against women, inter alia in the fields of legislation, prevention, law enforcement, victim assistance and rehabilitation, such as:

(a) Establishing, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, a comprehensive integrated national plan dedicated to combating violence against women in all its aspects, which includes data collection and analysis, prevention and protection measures, as well as national information campaigns using resources to eliminate in the media gender stereotypes that lead to violence against women and girls;

(b) Reviewing and, where appropriate, revising, amending or abolishing all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and ensuring that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

(c) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women, including the reasons for low

reporting, and, where necessary, reinforcing criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women and, where necessary, incorporating into law measures aimed at preventing violence against women;

(d) Ensuring that there is sufficient knowledge, including expertise in effective legal approaches to eliminating violence against women, awareness and coordination in the legal system and, to that end, where appropriate, appointing a focal point in the legal system for cases of violence against women;

(e) Ensuring the systematic collection and analysis of data to monitor all forms of violence against women, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims, including with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors;

(f) Establishing appropriate national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national measures, including national action plans, taken to eliminate violence against women and girls, including through the use of national indicators;

(g) Providing adequate financial support for the implementation of national action plans to end violence against women and other relevant activities;

(h) Allocating adequate resources to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality, and to prevent and redress all forms and manifestations of violence against women;

(i) Adopting all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women and to eliminate prejudices, customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women;

(j) Empowering women, in particular women living in poverty, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and to affordable and adequate public and social services, as well as equal access to financial resources and full and equal rights to own land and other property, and taking further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness or inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to violence;

(k) Treating all forms of violence against women and girls as a criminal offence, punishable by law, and ensuring penalties commensurate with the severity of the crimes and sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress, as appropriate, the wrongs caused to women who are subjected to violence;

(l) Taking effective measures to prevent the victim's consent from becoming an impediment to bringing perpetrators of violence against women to justice, while ensuring that appropriate safeguards to protect the victim are in place;

(m) Ensuring that effective legal assistance is available to all female victims of violence so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues relating to family law, and also ensuring that victims have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including through the adoption of national legislation where necessary;

(n) Ensuring that all relevant public officials coordinate effectively in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of all forms of violence against women, and provide protection and support to victims;

(o) Developing or improving and disseminating specialized training programmes, including practical tools and good practices guidelines on how to identify, prevent and deal with cases of violence against women and on how to assist victims, for police officers, the judiciary, health workers, law enforcement personnel and other relevant public authorities;

(p) Strengthening national health and social infrastructure to reinforce measures to promote women's equal access to public health and address the health consequences of all forms of violence against women, including by providing support to victims;

(q) Establishing or supporting integrated centres through which shelter, legal, health, psychological, counselling and other services are provided to victims of all forms of violence against women and, where such centres are not yet feasible, promoting collaboration and coordination among agencies, in order to make remedies more accessible and to facilitate the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims, and ensuring that victims have access to such services;

(r) Ensuring adequate and comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence into society;

(s) Ensuring that the prison system and probation services provide appropriate rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, as a preventive tool to avoid recidivism;

(t) Supporting and engaging in partnerships with non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, and other relevant actors and the private sector to end violence against women;

17. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, and taking into account national priorities, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices;

18. *Stresses* the contribution of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals in ending impunity through ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of violence against women, as well as the contribution the International Criminal Court can make, and urges States to consider ratifying or acceding as a matter of priority to the Rome Statute,[7] which entered into force on 1 July 2002;

19. *Welcomes* the steps taken by several United Nations bodies to discuss, within their respective mandates, the question of violence against women in all its forms and manifestations, and encourages all relevant bodies to continue to address this issue in their future efforts and work programmes;

20. *Reiterates* its request to the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to consider ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls, and in this regard stresses the importance of new and increased contributions from all States to the Fund in order to achieve the target set by the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

21. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work, inter alia through the Task Force on Violence against Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit:

(a) To the General Assembly, at its sixty-fourth session, a report with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement General Assembly resolutions 61/143, 62/133 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(b) To the General Assembly, at its sixty-fifth session, a report with information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the present resolution;

23. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-third session with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolutions 61/143 and 62/133, including on the progress made in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide United Nations mechanism and on the progress of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

24. *Decides* to continue the consideration of this question at its sixty-fourth session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

Draft resolution II
Trafficking in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Recalling all international conventions that deal specifically with the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[1] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[2] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[3] and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[4] the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[5] and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[6] and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[7] and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[8] as well as previous resolutions of the General Assembly and its subsidiary body, the Human Rights Council, and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions on the issue,

Reaffirming the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[9]

Reaffirming also the commitment made by world leaders at the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims,

Recalling the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, as well as the information that deals with trafficking in women and girls contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women,[10]

Recalling also the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns* of April 2006 and the attention paid in it to the situation of trafficked women and girls,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.
[3] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[4] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.
[5] Ibid., vol. 96, No. 1342.
[6] Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[7] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[8] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.
[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[10] A/61/122 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

Taking note of the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, held from 13 to 15 February 2008, in the framework of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, and of the thematic debate on the issue of trafficking in persons, held on 3 June 2008, in the framework of the General Assembly,

Taking note also of the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and of the fact that part of her task is to integrate a gender- and age-specific perspective throughout the work of her mandate, inter alia, through the identification of gender- and age-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the issue of trafficking in persons,

Acknowledging the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[10] which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons, and to rescue victims as well as provide for their protection, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Seriously concerned that an increasing number of women and girls from some developing countries and countries with economies in transition are being trafficked to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

Recognizing that certain efforts against trafficking in persons lack the gender- and age-sensitivity needed to address effectively the situation of women and girls who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, services and other forms of exploitation, thus highlighting the need to incorporate a gender- and age-sensitive approach in all anti-trafficking efforts,

Recognizing also the need to address the impact of globalization on the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

Recognizing further the challenges to combating trafficking in women and girls owing to the lack of adequate legislation and implementation of existing legislation, the lack of availability of reliable sex-disaggregated data and statistics, and the lack of resources,

Concerned about the use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of exploitation of the prostitution of others, for trafficking in women as brides, for sex tourism exploiting women and children and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children,

Concerned also about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhuman conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international standards,

Recognizing that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

on the grounds of their gender, age, ethnicity, culture and religion, as well as their origins, and that these forms of discrimination themselves may fuel trafficking in persons,

Noting that some of the demand for prostitution and forced labour is met by trafficking in persons in some parts of the world,

Acknowledging that women and girl victims of trafficking, on account of their gender, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information or awareness and recognition of their human rights and by the stigmatization often associated with trafficking, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

Reaffirming the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Reaffirming also that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially women and children, demand the strong political commitment, shared responsibility and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

Recognizing that policies and programmes for prevention, rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration should be developed through a gender- and age-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, with concern for the security of the victims and respect for the full enjoyment of their human rights and with the involvement of all actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

Convinced of the need to protect and assist all victims of trafficking, with full respect for the victims' human rights,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to enhance their efforts and cooperation, including by sharing their knowledge, technical expertise and best practices as widely as possible;

2. *Calls upon* Governments to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters the trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation, and, in this regard, enhance preventive measures, including legislative measures, to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

3. *Also calls upon* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the factors that increase vulnerability to being trafficked, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as other factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage and forced labour, in order to prevent and eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community and all other organizations and entities that deal with conflict and post-conflict, disaster and other emergency situations to address the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and exploitation, and associated gender-based violence;

5. *Urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective gender- and age-sensitive measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

6. *Urges* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources to strengthen preventive action, in particular education for women and men, as well as for girls and boys, on gender equality, self-respect and mutual respect, and campaigns, carried out in collaboration with civil society, to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels;

7. *Encourages* Governments to take appropriate measures to eliminate sex tourism demand, especially of children, through all possible preventive actions;

8. *Urges* Governments to develop educational and training programmes and policies and consider, as appropriate, enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

9. *Also urges* Governments to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement relevant United Nations legal instruments, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[6] and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[7] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[1] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[2] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[3] and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[4] as well as the Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1930 (Convention No. 29), the Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation, 1958 (Convention No. 111) and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182), of the International Labour Organization;

10. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen national programmes and to engage in bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, including by forging regional initiatives or plans of action,[12] to address the problem of trafficking

[12] Such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, the Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific region of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (see A/C.3/55/3, annex), the initiatives of the European Union on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed most recently in the European Union plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings, adopted in December 2005, the activities of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

in persons through, inter alia, the enhancement of information-sharing, gender- and age-specific data collection and other technical capacities, and mutual legal assistance, as well as the combating of corruption and laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, and to ensure that such agreements and initiatives are particularly responsive to the problem of trafficking as it affects women and girls;

11. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation and abuse, sex tourism and forced labour, and to bring to justice and punish the offenders and intermediaries involved, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

12. *Urges* Governments to take all appropriate measures to ensure that victims of trafficking are not penalized for being trafficked and that they do not suffer from revictimization as a result of actions taken by government authorities, and encourages Governments to prevent, within their legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking in persons from being prosecuted for their illegal entry or residence;

13. *Invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in violence against women, in particular trafficking, and to include data disaggregated by sex and age;

14. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly in women and girls; to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour; to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue; and to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime;

15. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide comprehensive programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance in a language that they can understand and health care, including for HIV/AIDS, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

16. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to undertake or strengthen campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration, as well as information on the risks of irregular migration and the ways and means used by

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the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the Organization of American States Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, and the activities of the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration in this field.

traffickers, so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

17. *Encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement gender- and age-sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

18. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials in the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, and in this regard, calls upon Governments to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, especially by law enforcers, immigration officers, consular officials, social workers and other first-response officials, is conducted with full respect for the human rights of those victims, with gender- and age-sensitivity, and observes the principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination;

19. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities without fear, and being available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to gender- and age-sensitive protection and, as appropriate, social, medical, financial and legal assistance, including the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered;

20. *Also invites* Governments to encourage media providers, including Internet service providers, to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children, in particular girls, which could foster trafficking;

21. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism and telecommunications industries, including mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking, the rights of trafficked persons and the services available to victims of trafficking;

22. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

23. *Invites* Governments, United Nations bodies, agencies and special mechanisms, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

24. *Invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, when necessary, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals and other informational materials and provide training for law enforcement, judicial and other relevant officers, and medical and support personnel, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

25. *Encourages* Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations are provided training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate or exploit trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and to raise the awareness of such personnel of the potential risks to victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, of being trafficked;

26. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenants on Human Rights[13] to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report that compiles successful interventions and strategies, as well as the gaps, in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of trafficking in persons, and provides recommendations on the strengthening of gender- and age-sensitive approaches within the various aspects of efforts to address trafficking in persons.

[13] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Draft resolution III
Future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on the situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in particular resolution 60/229 of 23 December 2005,

Recalling also its resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Acknowledging resolution 62/277 of 15 September 2008, in particular its gender-specific provisions, and, in this context, encouraging the ongoing work on gender equality and empowerment of women,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/37 of 27 July 2007, in which the Council reaffirmed the specific mandate of the Institute to conduct research and training for gender equality and the empowerment of women as a central focal point for research and training on gender issues within the United Nations system,

Taking into account Commission on the Status of Women resolution 52/3 of 7 March 2008, entitled "Strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women",[1]

Welcoming the contributions of the Institute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[3] and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[4]

Taking note with appreciation of the progress report on the Institute by its Director with respect to the implementation of the programme of work for the period from 15 May to 30 September 2008,[5] which measures progress through the utilization of indicators of achievement as established in the workplan for 2008,[6]

Welcoming the approval by the Executive Board of the Institute of the revised workplan for 2008 and its endorsement of the operational budget for 2008,[7]

Acknowledging the contributions of the Institute in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the areas of security, international migration, in particular remittances and development, and governance and political participation,

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 7* (E/2008/27), chap. I, sect. D.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

[5] INSTRAW/EB/2008/R.13.

[6] INSTRAW/EB/2007/R.4/Rev.1.

[7] See INSTRAW/EB/2007/R.14, para. 6.

Recognizing the contribution of the Institute to the ongoing efforts in gender mainstreaming through its research and training outputs involving national gender machineries, academic institutes, regional intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector,

Reaffirming the importance of seeking medium-term sustainable financial resources for the Institute,

Welcoming the activities undertaken by the Director of the Institute to actively promote a fund-raising strategy for the Institute,

Expressing its satisfaction with the progress of the Institute in the area of resource mobilization, which has enabled the Institute to fully reimburse the amount committed by the Secretary-General on an exceptional basis from the United Nations regular budget, and recognizing the improved financial standing of the Institute,

Recognizing that the implementation of the programme of work and strategic plan of the Institute will contribute to a comprehensive discussion on international migration and development from a gender perspective,

1. *Requests* the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in accordance with its mandate, to coordinate further its activities and to develop its programme of work in collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Gender Unit in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and calls upon those entities to continue their collaborative efforts;

2. *Also requests* the Institute, in accordance with its mandate, to collaborate with the United Nations system, national machinery, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in promoting international cooperation to foster women's empowerment and gender equality, including through, inter alia, the promotion of better access to education for women and girls and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in all policies and programmes;

3. *Further requests* the Institute, in accordance with its mandate and in close coordination with the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant United Nations programmes and funds, to actively participate in and contribute to discussions on issues related to international migration and development;

4. *Invites* the Institute to continue, in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to promote and undertake research and training programmes on gender mainstreaming, in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[3] as well as the commitments made at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[4]

5. *Requests* the Institute, within its mandate, to continue to assist countries in promoting and supporting the political participation and economic and social advancement of women through training programmes;

6. *Stresses* the critical importance of voluntary financial contributions by Member States to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to enable it to carry out its mandate, and invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

7. *Calls for* the diversification of funding resources and, in this regard, invites Member States to continue providing assistance and support to the Institute through voluntary contributions and substantive involvement in its projects and activities;

8. *Looks forward* to the enhanced implementation of the strategic plan of the Institute under the leadership of the new Director, to be appointed shortly by the Secretary-General;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide, within existing resources, appropriate administrative assistance and support to the Institute, in accordance with the provisions of the statute of the Institute, including by enhancing coordination among the Institute, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Management of the Secretariat, in order to ensure that the objectives of the strategic plan, including resource mobilization efforts, are effectively and efficiently carried out;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include information on the implementation of the present resolution in his report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009 through the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-third session, and to submit his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

Draft resolution IV
Supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/138 of 18 December 2007 on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[1] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2] and the declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[3]

Reaffirming also the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[4] and at the 2005 World Summit,[5]

Reaffirming further the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[6] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7] and urging States that have not done so to consider, as a matter of priority, signing, ratifying or acceding to those Conventions and the Optional Protocols thereto,[8]

Stressing the interlinkages between poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health services, early childbearing, early marriage of the girl child, violence against young women and girls and gender discrimination as root causes of obstetric fistula, and that poverty remains the main social risk factor,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing also that early pregnancy and early childbearing entail complications during pregnancy and delivery and a much higher risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, and deeply concerned that early childbearing and limited access to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, including in the area of emergency obstetric care, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and other maternal morbidities as well as maternal mortality,

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

[4] See resolution 55/2.

[5] See resolution 60/1.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[7] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[8] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378; and ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

Recognizing further the serious immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and the negative impact on psychological, social and economic development, that violence against the girl child and adolescent girls represents for individuals, families, communities and States,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access by girls to education, nutrition and physical and mental health and in enjoyment by girls of fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence compared with boys and their often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices,

Welcoming the contribution by Member States, the international community and civil society to the global Campaign to End Fistula, bearing in mind that a people-centred approach to social and economic development is fundamental for protecting and empowering individuals and communities,

1. *Recognizes* the interlinkages between poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health services, early childbearing, early marriage of the girl child and gender discrimination as root causes of obstetric fistula, that poverty remains the main social risk factor, that the eradication of poverty is critical to meeting the needs and protecting and promoting the rights of women and girls and that continued urgent national and international action is required to eliminate it;

2. *Stresses* the need to address the social issues that contribute to the problem of obstetric fistula, such as early marriage of the girl child, early pregnancy, lack of access to sexual and reproductive health, lack of or inadequate education of women and girls, poverty and low status of women and girls;

3. *Also stresses* that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls, that they must exercise due diligence in order to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Calls upon* States to take all necessary measures to ensure the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and develop sustainable health systems and social services, with a view to ensuring access to such systems and services without discrimination, while paying special attention to adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation, family planning information, increasing knowledge and awareness and securing appropriate prenatal and post-natal care for the prevention of obstetric fistula;

5. *Also calls upon* States to ensure that women and girls have equal access to free and compulsory primary education of good quality and that they complete their education at that level, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand girls' and women's education at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order to, inter alia, achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication;

6. *Urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to support the activities of the United Nations Population Fund and other partners in the global Campaign to End Fistula, including the World Health Organization, in establishing and financing regional fistula treatment and training centres by identifying and supporting health facilities that have the potential to serve as centres for treatment, training and convalescent care;

8. *Calls upon* States and/or the relevant funds and programmes, organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector:

(a) To redouble their efforts to meet the internationally agreed goal of improving maternal health by making maternal health services and obstetric fistula treatment geographically and financially accessible, including by increasing access to skilled attendance at birth and emergency obstetric care, and appropriate prenatal and post-natal care;

(b) To develop, implement and support national and international prevention, care and treatment and reintegration and support strategies, as appropriate, to address effectively the condition of obstetric fistula and to develop further a multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated approach in order to bring about lasting solutions and put an end to obstetric fistula, maternal mortality and related morbidities, including through ensuring access to affordable, comprehensive, quality maternal health-care services, including skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care;

(c) To strengthen the capacity of health systems, in particular public health systems, to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat those cases that do occur by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care, to young women and girls, including those living in poverty and in underserved rural areas where obstetric fistula is most common;

(d) To strengthen research, monitoring and evaluation systems, including community-based notification of obstetric fistula cases and maternal and newborn deaths, to guide the implementation of maternal health programmes;

(e) To provide essential health services, equipment and supplies and skills training and income-generating projects to women and girls so that they can break out of a cycle of poverty;

(f) To mobilize funding to provide free or subsidized fistula repairs, including through encouraging more networking among providers and the sharing of new treatment techniques and protocols;

(g) To provide health education, rehabilitation and reintegration counselling, including medical counselling, as key components of post-operative care;

(h) To bring obstetric fistula to the attention of policymakers and communities, thereby reducing the stigma and discrimination associated with it and helping women and girls suffering from obstetric fistula so that they can overcome abandonment and social exclusion together with the psychosocial implications thereof, inter alia, through the support of social reintegration projects;

(i) To educate individual women and men, girls and boys, communities, policymakers and health professionals about how obstetric fistula can be prevented and treated and increase awareness of the needs of pregnant women and girls, including their right to the highest attainable standard of health, through working with community and religious leaders, traditional birth attendants, media, radio stations, influential public figures and policymakers, support the training of doctors, midwives, nurses and other health workers in lifesaving obstetric care, and include training on fistula repair, treatment and care as a standard element of health professionals' training curricula;

(j) To develop means of transportation and financing that enable women and girls to access obstetric care and treatment, and provide incentives and other means to secure the presence in rural areas of qualified health professionals who are able to perform interventions to prevent obstetric fistula;

9. *Encourages* communication and networking among existing fistula centres to facilitate training, research, advocacy and fund-raising and the development and application of relevant standards, including *Obstetric Fistula: Guiding Principles for Clinical Management and Programme Development*, published in 2006 by the World Health Organization, which provides background information along with principles for developing fistula prevention and treatment strategies and programmes;

10. *Urges* the international community to address the shortages of doctors, midwives, nurses and other health workers trained in lifesaving obstetric care, and of space and supplies, which limit the capacity of most of the fistula centres;

11. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reaches young women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas;

12. *Invites* Member States to contribute to efforts to end obstetric fistula, including, in particular, the United Nations Population Fund global Campaign to End Fistula, with the goal of eliminating obstetric fistula by 2015, in line with the targets of the millennium development goal of improving maternal health;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

Draft resolution V
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 62/137 of 18 December 2007,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[2] are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[3] the 2005 World Summit[4] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation are integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and noting with appreciation the agreed conclusions on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-second session,[5]

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 7* (E/2008/27), chap. I, sect. A.

political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, and in some cases has even decreased, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system,[6]

Acknowledging resolution 62/277 of 15 September 2008, in particular its gender-specific provisions, and in this context encouraging the ongoing work on gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

Reaffirming also the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[7] and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted at the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, held from 31 May to 2 June 2006,[8] which, inter alia, acknowledged the feminization of the pandemic,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system,[9]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[10]

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[1] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] and the declaration adopted on the occasion of the ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[11] and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

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[6] A/63/364.

[7] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

[8] Resolution 60/262, annex.

[9] E/2008/53.

[10] A/63/217.

[11] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[12] are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto[13] and to take into consideration the concluding comments as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible, and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Encourages* all actors, inter alia, Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and, as applicable, to carry out its recommendations, and welcomes in this regard the revised programme and methods of work of the Commission adopted at its fiftieth session,[14] which give particular attention to the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to full implementation at the national and international levels as well as to the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes;

7. *Calls upon* Governments, and the relevant funds and programmes, organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia:

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[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[13] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

[14] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/9.

(a) Sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels to take further action, inter alia, through the mainstreaming of gender perspectives, including through the development and use of gender equality indicators, as applicable, in all policies and programmes and the promotion of full and equal participation and empowerment of women, and enhanced international cooperation;

(b) Promotion and protection of, and respect for, the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, including through the full implementation by States of their obligations under all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(c) Ensuring full representation and full and equal participation of women in political, social and economic decision-making as an essential condition for gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls as a critical factor in the eradication of poverty;

(d) Involving women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels, integrating gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development, and strengthening or establishing mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies and strategies, including those related to climate change, deforestation and desertification, on women;

(e) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national environmental policies, strengthening mechanisms and providing adequate resources to ensure women's full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, in particular on strategies related to the impact of climate change on the lives of women and girls;

(f) Enhancing the role of women at all levels and in all aspects of rural development, agriculture, nutrition and food security, including by ensuring legislation and administrative reforms, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and new technology;

(g) Providing technical assistance to women, particularly in developing countries, to ensure the continuing promotion of human resources development and the development of environmentally sound technologies and of women's entrepreneurship;

(h) Respect for the rule of law, including legislation, and continued efforts to repeal laws and eradicate policies and practices that discriminate against women and girls, and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect their rights;

(i) Strengthening the role of national institutional mechanisms for gender equality and the advancement of women, including through financial and other appropriate assistance, to increase their direct impact on women;

(j) Undertaking socio-economic policies that promote sustainable development and ensure poverty eradication programmes, especially for women and girls, and strengthening the provision of and ensuring equal access to adequate, affordable and accessible public and social services, including education and

training at all levels, as well as to all types of permanent and sustainable social protection/social security systems for women throughout their life cycle, and supporting national efforts in this regard;

(k) Promoting and supporting increased access of all women and girls to information and communications technology, particularly women and girls living in poverty, women and girls living in rural and remote areas and in disadvantaged situations, and enhancing international support to overcome the digital divide among countries and regions, between women and men and girls and boys;

(l) Taking further steps to ensure that the education system and the media, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, support the use of non-stereotypic, balanced and diverse images of women presenting them as key actors of the process of development as well as promoting non-discriminatory roles of women and men in their private and public life;

(m) Ensuring women's and girls' full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training, while ensuring progressively and on the basis of equal opportunities that primary education is compulsory, accessible and available free to all;

(n) Incorporating gender perspectives and human rights in health-sector policies, programmes and research activities, paying attention to women's and girls' specific needs and priorities, ensuring women's right to the highest attainable standards of health and their access to affordable and adequate health-care services, including sexual, reproductive and maternal health care and life-saving obstetric care, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[15] and recognizing that the lack of economic empowerment and independence has increased women's vulnerability to a range of negative consequences, involving the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other poverty-related diseases;

(o) Eliminating gender inequalities, gender-based abuse and violence; increasing the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and services, including sexual and reproductive health, and the provision of full access to comprehensive information and education; ensuring that women can exercise their right to have control over, and decide freely and responsibly on, matters related to their sexuality in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence; and taking all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and to strengthen their economic independence, while, in this context, reiterating the importance of the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality;

(p) Strengthening national health and social infrastructures to reinforce measures to promote women's access to public health and taking action at the national level to address shortages of human resources for health by, inter alia, developing, financing and implementing policies, within national development strategies, to improve training and management and effectively govern the

[15] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

recruitment, retention and deployment of health workers, including through international cooperation in this area;

(q) Adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, including the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources;

(r) Increased partnerships among Governments, civil society and the private sector;

(s) Encouraging joint responsibility of men and boys with women and girls in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, based on the conviction that this is essential to the achievement of the goals of gender equality and the empowerment of women, development and peace;

(t) Removing structural and legal barriers, as well as eliminating stereotypic attitudes, to gender equality at work, promoting equal pay for equal work or work of equal value and promoting the recognition of the value of women's unremunerated work, as well as developing and promoting policies that facilitate the reconciliation of employment and family responsibilities;

8. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls;

9. *Welcomes* the adoption of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008;

10. *Calls upon* Governments, in this regard, to promote awareness and information campaigns on women's rights and the responsibility to respect them, including in rural areas, and to encourage men and boys to speak out strongly against violence against women;

11. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

12. *Resolves* to intensify the efforts of its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies to fully mainstream a gender perspective in their work, including by paying more attention to issues related to the status of women under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as in all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and in their follow-up processes;

13. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis and, where available, quantitative data, in particular through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the advancement of women, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development;

14. *Urges* Governments and all entities of the United Nations system, including United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and all relevant actors of civil society, to ensure the integration of gender perspectives in the implementation of and follow-up to all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and to give attention to gender perspectives in preparation for such events, including the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in Doha in 2008;

15. *Reaffirms its call* to include a gender perspective in the consideration of all issues in the agenda and activities of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council;

16. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to continue its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, through, inter alia, implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997[16] and its resolution 2004/4 of 7 July 2004;

17. *Welcomes* the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2008 of the Economic and Social Council,[17] which, inter alia, reaffirmed the commitment to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, recognizing that they are key actors in development, and to identifying and accelerating concrete actions towards that end;

18. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that programmes, plans and budgets visibly mainstream gender perspectives;

19. *Reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting the advancement of women and gender equality;

20. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to continue to encourage its functional commissions to mainstream a gender perspective in their respective follow-up actions to major United Nations conferences and summits and to develop more effective means to ensure the implementation of outcomes on gender equality at the national level, including through increased consultation with the Commission on the Status of Women;

21. *Underlines* the catalytic role played by the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the important role played by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

22. *Requests* that the entities of the United Nations system systematically incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work within their mandates, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

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[16] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

[17] See A/63/3, chap. IV, sect. F, paras. 119. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 3*.

23. *Reaffirms* the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, while noting the eighth anniversary of its adoption and the open debates in the Council on women and peace and security, and encourages Governments to ensure systematic attention to, recognition of and support for the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding efforts;

24. *Urges* Governments and the United Nations system to take further steps to ensure the integration of a gender perspective and the full and equal participation of women in all efforts to promote peace and security, including in peace negotiations, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and post-conflict situations, as well as to increase their role in decision-making at all levels, including through the development of national action plans and strategies;

25. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia, the work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women and the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels in the Secretariat and throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels;

27. *Encourages* the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly to incorporate gender-equality perspectives systematically in their discussions and outcomes, including through effective use of the analysis, data and recommendations contained in reports of the Secretary-General, and to follow up on the outcomes;

28. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly facilitate gender-sensitive policy development by more systematically including qualitative gender analysis, data and recommendations for further action;

29. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions, to report to the General Assembly on a biennial basis, beginning at its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", and to include in his

report on human resources management information on the status of women in the United Nations system, including on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, recommendations for accelerating progress, and up-to-date statistics, including the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, and information on the responsibility and accountability of the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly under the item entitled "Advancement of women", as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance implementation.